

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /003 R

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APPROVED BY IO:RREIS

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R 202040Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

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FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 03997 ACTION STATE FEB 14:

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 03997

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ILO, MX

SUBJECT: ILO: STRATEGY ON POSTPONEMENT OF PLO

REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS AT THE ILO

REF: STATE 021869

1. SUMMARY. BROWN REACTS NEGATIVELY TO UMBRELLA ARRANGEMENT REGARDING PLO STATUS AS OBSERVER IN ILO AND REPEATS DETERMINATION TO FIGHT ISSUE IN GB MARCH MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. FIRST GOOD OPPORTUNITY LABATT HAD TO DISCUSS SUBJECT MATTER WITH IRVING BROWN WAS 12 FEBRUARY AFTER HIS RETURN FROM LONDON. HE WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED TO KNOW OF U.S. APPROACH TO GOVERNMENTS AND NOT AT ALL SURPRISED BY THEIR NEGATIVE ASSESSMENT OF PROSPECT OF POSTPONEMENT.

3. LABATT MENTIONED "UMBRELLA ARRANGEMENT" REGARDING
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PLO ADMISSION AS OBSERVER AS HIS OWN PERSONAL ESTIMATE

OF WHAT IS LIKELY TO HAPPEN AND ASKED WHETHER HE HAD THOUGHT AT ALL ABOUT IT AS A COMPROMISE SOLUTION TO AN OBVIOUSLY DIFFICULT SITUATION. BROWN'S RESPONSE WAS VIGOROUSLY NEGATIVE. HE KNEW THAT THIS APPROACH HAS BEEN ADVOCATED AND IS BEING CONSIDERED BUT HE WILL HAVE NONE OF IT. HE SAID CLEARLY THAT HE WILL FIGHT IT IN THE GB BY RAISING THE OBVIOUS QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE, NAMELY, THAT ILO IS A TRIPARTITE ORGANIZATION WITH CLEARLY DEFINED TERMS OF REFERENCE WHICH PROVIDE NO PLACE FOR ANY OTHER TYPE OF ORGANIZATION THAN GOVERNMENTS, EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS. HE CONTENDED THAT "UMBRELLA FORMULA" WILL NOT PREVENT THE KURDS OR THE IRA OR ANY OTHER SIMILAR GROUP TO CLAIM A SIMILAR OBSERVER STATUS AS IS NOW CLAIMED BY PLO.

4. WITH REFERENCE TO HIS TRIP TO LONDON HE SAID THAT HE HAD NO DIFFICULTY IN GETTING U.K. WORKER DELEGATE PLANT TO AGREE WITH HIM ON NEED TO POSTPONE DG DISCUSSION OF PLO ISSUE. WHEN PLANT BROADENED DISCUSSION TO INCLUDE ILO BUDGET MATTERS, ESPECIALLY THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL \$60 MILLION TO SUPPLEMENT ILO BUDGET BECAUSE OF INFLATION AND FALLING DOLLAR RATE, BROWN TOLD HIM THAT IF PLO IS ACCORDED OBSERVER STATUS BY DG IN MARCH IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT U.S. WILL INCREASE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO ASSUME PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF FOREGOING \$60 MILLION. HE AGAIN INTIMATED LIKELIHOOD OF AFL-CIO WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO.

5. BROWN WAS QUICK TO EXPRESS RESERVATIONS NOT ONLY IN CONNECTION WITH PLANT BUT ALSO WITH DGB OFFICIALS REGARDING WHAT THEY SAY IN PRIVATE TO HIM AND WHAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO DO IN PUBLIC IN DG MEETINGS. HE ADDED THAT HE HAS SIMILAR DOUBTS ABOUT THE ICFTU.

6. LABATT MENTIONED AGAIN HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT PROCEDURAL ASPECTS OF PLO ISSUE SEEM TO ALLOW VERY LITTLE ROOM FOR A POSTPONEMENT DEVICE, MAJOR HANDICAP IS FACT THAT AN ARAB (MOROCCAN LABOR MINISTER) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS GB CHAIRMAN WHO CANNOT REALISTICALLY BE EXPECTED TO SET ASIDE PLO ISSUE. BROWN RECOGNIZED THIS AS A FACT OF LIFE, ADDING THAT HE TALKED TO THE TUNISIANS ABOUT IT BUT THEY TOO COULD NOT SEE HOW THEY COULD BROACH POSTPONEMENT IDEA TO THE MOROCCAN CHAIRMAN EVEN THOUGH THEY AGREED THAT POSTPONEMENT WOULD BE USEFUL. HE CONCLUDED THAT HE IS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO SPEAK UP IN THE GB MEETING AND IS

PREPARED TO DO SO COME WHAT MAY.

7. COMMENT: IF ANYTHING, FOREGOING REINFORCED
CONCLUSION ALREADY REPORTED TO THE EFFECT THAT BROWN'S
INSTRUCTIONS SEEM CLEAR, NAMELY, TO FIGHT FROM GB
FLOOR THE PROPOSAL TO EXTEND OBSERVER STATUS TO PL

.

THE ONLY POSSIBILITY WE SEE FOR HIM TO SEEK CHANGE
OF INSTRUCTIONS WOULD BE IF AT WORKER GROUP
PRELIMINARY MEETING IN GENEVA IT BECOMES CLEAR
THAT NO ONE OF THE WORKER MEMBERS OF GB IS PREPARED
TO SPEAK UP ON THE ISSUE.
RUSH UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPPOSITION TO ADMISSION, LIBERATION FRONTS, MEETING OBSERVERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE038531
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: UNP POAKLEY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750062-0011
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750226/aaaaaxov.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 021869
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <21 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ILO: STRATEGY ON POSTPONEMENT OF PLO REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS AT THE ILO
TAGS: ELAB, MX, ILO, PLO
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006